

**Edward Livingston to Andrew Jackson, May 2, 1835,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

Havre, May 2, 1835.

Private.

My dear General, I wrote from Rouen to Mr. Forsyth 1 to announce my Departure from Paris, but finding the Packet detained, I have time

1 Secretary of State.

to inform you that I am here with my Family waiting the arrival of the Frigate to embark. Capt. Elliot was obliged by contrary winds to go to Cherbourg, instead of Yarmouth as he intended, to take in water, and has not yet returned; he will probably arrive to day and I shall immediately embark; impatient as we all are to see the flag of our country flying over us.

My last Despatch from Paris informed you of the insolent condition annexed to the payment of their Debt by chamber of Deputies. 2 It has since been introduced to the Peers by a speech of the Minister of War by which we learn, in substance that you must send a minister to Paris with an Explanation of your message before the Money will be paid. It will be some weeks I think before the law can pass the chamber of Peers. In the interval, they will have time to ponder over the contents of a Note which I left them at parting; 3 it will serve, should they persist, in their pretensions, as a complete justification in the opinion of the world of any course we may think proper to pursue to support the dignity of the country. It is long, and I have not time to send a copy by this packet which can not be many Days before me. The approbation you were kind enough to give to the letter of the

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29th January, 4 makes me flatter myself, that this, written in the same spirit will be equally fortunate. Should it prove so, it will be an additional motive with me for felicitating myself on the conquest of my feelings which prompted me at once to accept my passports when they were offered. For in that case neither the one nor the other of these letters, which so completely put France in the wrong, could have been written. The last three months of my stay in France have been painful, and more than usually laborious, but I do not regret them; for I close my mission with the perfect consciousness of having to the last moment asserted the Dignity while I endeavoured to secured the interest of my country, at the expence of my personal feelings.

2 That the payments to be effected in execution of the first article of the bill then before the Chamber (for payment of French spoliation claims) should take place only after the French government should have received satisfactory explanations of Jackson's message of Dec. 3, 1834.

3 *Senate Docs.* , no. 1, 24 Cong., 1 sess., p. 30.

4 *Ibid.* , no. 62, p. 17.

The passage of the law, impossible as the acceptance of the condition annexed to it is, has one advantage—the Debt is now comple[te]ly acknowledged after the strictest scrutiny on their own principles, and if they persist in annexing a condition to its payment, which is impossible to be performed, it will add a new justification to the measures we may pursue to enforce it.

I shall probably have the pleasure of seeing you so soon after you will have received this letter that I reserve all other matters for personal communication.

With the most devoted attachment I am my Dear General

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Your Friend and Hble S't